

News Release

Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex
PO Box 1128
Kīlauea, HI 96754
Phone: (808) 828-1413
www.fws.gov/kilaueapoint



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Contact: Jennifer Waipa, (808) 635-0925, jennifer_waipa@fws.gov

KPNWR 16-05

Public Meeting Scheduled for proposed Hanalei Valley Viewpoint Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Kaua'i, Hawai'i – The Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex invites you to a public scoping meeting on the proposed Hanalei Valley Viewpoint feasibility study on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Uncle Jack's Place (Hale Halawai/Hanalei Community Center) in Hanalei.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is conducting a feasibility study for proposed site improvements to an area being considered for purchase in Princeville, along Kūhi'ō Highway. The purpose of this study is to develop a conceptual design for safe access to the site for interpreting the National Wildlife Refuge System and endangered species management in Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), while helping alleviate traffic congestion on the North Shore of Kaua'i. The site will provide parking, transit facilities, restrooms, visitor contact information, and landscape wildlife observation for the Hanalei NWR that is otherwise closed to public access.

An Environmental Assessment for this project was released in 2001; however, certain aspects of the proposed project have changed with site design and property ownership. The current feasibility study will evaluate the visual and environmental impacts, vehicular and pedestrian circulation, safety, operation needs, and propose estimated construction costs. Conceptual design options prepared for the proposed viewpoint, informed by FWS and stakeholder input, will be presented for consideration and comment at the meeting.

Please contact Deputy Project Leader, Michael Mitchell, at (808) 828-1413 or email him at michael_mitchell@fws.gov if you have questions. You can also visit the Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge website (www.fws.gov/refuge/hanalei/) beginning March 16, 2016 to review the project summary and conceptual design options. Comments can be submitted to Michael Mitchell or Alex Schwartz (alex_schwartz@fws.gov) until March 25, 2016.

The Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1972 under the Endangered Species Act. The Refuge is helping to recover five endangered water birds that rely on the Hanalei Valley for nesting and feeding habitat by managing and utilizing water from the Hanalei River to irrigate wetland impoundments, wet pasture, and taro patches.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov, or connect with us through any of these social media channels:



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